Use of Non-Polluting Fuels for Automotive Vehicles

1201. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of Government to encourage use of non-polluting fuels for automotive vehicles like LPG or CNG;

(b) whether this policy is in tandem with the policy for encouragement of use of non-conventional energy, whereunder wide ranging subsidies are given on equipments etc. and if not why;

(c) whether it is a fact that for CNG kits, huge deposit of over Rupees 30,000/ is required to be made;

(d) if so, why and in what manner this will encourage conversion of automobiles into CNG fuel; and

(e) whether Government would consider reduction of deposit to nominal level to encourage use of LPG/CNG kits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Government has taken in principle decision to permit the use of LPG as an automotive fuel, which will be made possible after necessary amendments in Motor Vehicles Act, LPG Control Order and other relevant Rules are carried out.

As regards use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), it has already been introduced in Delhi, Mumbai and Baroda as an automotive fuel considering its positive impact on pollution abatement.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, no subsidy on LPG for automotive use is possible.

(c) and (d) Although there is no requirement of initial deposit, an initial investment is required to be made for fitment of CNG conversion kits on vehicles using CNG as fuel. This investment can be recovered in 1-2 from the savings made by the use of CNG in place of petrol, depending upon the daily running of vehicle as CNG is about 60% cheaper than petrol.

(e) Does not arise.

Misuse of Oil Pool Fund by Foreign Hand

1202. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister suspects foreign hand in the misuse of oil pool fund to the tune of Rs. 28,900 crores;

(b) whether Government would conduct a searching inquiry into the matter; and

(c) if so, by when and in what time frame and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) As per a communication received in this Ministry a few days ago, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture has expressed his concern about inadequate allotment/non-allotment of funds by Ministry of Finance to Oil Industry Development Board. There is no mention of "foreign hand" in this communication.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

तेल तथा प्राकृतिक गैस निगम में प्रति बैरल उत्पादन की लागत

1203. श्री राम जेठमलानी: क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में तेल तथा प्राकृतिक गैस निगम में प्रति बैरल उत्पादन की लागत विश्व की अनेक बड़ी कंपनियों की तुलना में कम है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो मोबिल, शैल, बी०पी० ऐम्को तथा ऐग्जॉन की तुलना में तेल तथा प्राकृतिक गैस निगम में प्रति बैरल उत्पादन लागत कितनी है; और

(ग) यदि देश में तेल की उत्पादन लागत कम है, तो सामान्य उपभोक्ता को इसका लाभ न मिलने के क्या-क्या कारण है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी०आर० बालू): (क) और (ख) जी हां। वर्ष 1995-96 के लिए ओ एन जी सी की प्रतिबैरल उत्पादन लागत अन्य अन्तरराष्ट्रीय तेल कंपनियों की तुलना में निम्नानुसार है;

कंपनी	वर्ष 1995-96 में उत्पादन लागत
	(आंकड़े अमेरीकी डालरों में)
मोबिल	7.73
शैल	10.23
बी०पी०	10.12
आमको	8.94
ऐक्सान	9.78
ओ एन जी सी	5.34

नोट: कुछ प्राचलों के संबंध में लागत वर्गीकरण/गणना अभिक्रिया में अन्तर के कारण लागत तुलनाएं वास्तव में परस्पर समानता आधार पर नहीं है।

(ग) पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों की प्रशासित मूल्य निर्धारण नीति में यह सुनिश्चित किया जाता है कि समाज के कमजोर वर्गों द्वारा इस्तेमाल किए जाने वाले उत्पादों के लिए राजसहायता दी जाए अर्थात् ये उत्पाद उक्त उपभोक्ताओं को लागत से कम मूल्य पर बेचे जाएं। अतः भारत में उपभोक्ताओं को घरेलू उपयोग के लिए एस के ओ/एल पी जी, एच एस डी, उर्वरकों के लिए निवेश आदि जैसे राजसहायता प्रदत्त उत्पादों पर अन्तरराष्ट्रीय मूल्यों की तुलना में अपेक्षाकृत कम मूल्यों के रूप में लाभ प्राप्त होते है। पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों पर राजसहायता तेल पूल खाता प्रक्रम से वहन की जाती है।

CAG'S Report on the Leasing of Panna & Mukta Oil Fields

1204. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the CAG Report on the leasing of Panna & Mukta oil fields to the Reliance Enron Joint Venture firm which was in utter disregard of all financial norms and whether this single deal could cause a loss of more than 20,000 crore to Government as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 28th June, 1997;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to hold CBI enquiry into the whole transactions of leasing of the RAVVA, KHARSANG, PANNA, MUKTA and RATNA oil fields to private companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The CAG report has already been laid on the table of the House on 27th February, 1997.

(c) CBI has initiated a preliminary enquiry on the award of contracts for Panna—Mukta and Ravva discovered oil fields under private participation.

Complaints regarding cancellation/rescheduling/diversion of trains

1205. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by his Ministry regarding inconvenience suffered by passengers holding reserved tickets due to cancellation and rescheduling/diversion of trains;

(b) the number of complainants who have since filed claims with the Chief Claims Officer, Northern Railway, Delhi against the inconvenience they suffered due to cancellation and diversion/rescheduling of timings of trains;

(c) the number of cases in which the said claims have been settled and the amount paid in each case; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No Separate data is maintained.

(b) to (d) During the period 1.1.97 to 30.6.97 42 claims for refunds have been filed and all these cases have since been